

Daniel 5:1 KJV

1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Daniel 5:1 AMPC

5 Belshazzar the king [descendant of Nebuchadnezzar] made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and he drank his wine in the presence of the thousand.

King Nebuchadnezzar II was directly succeeded by his son, Amel-Marduk (also known as Evil-Merodach), who reigned from 562–560 BC. He was followed by a series of rulers, before Nabonidus became the final king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, with his son, Belshazzar, acting as co-regent/king until 539 BC. He ruled with his father, Nabonidus, staying home to administer the affairs of the kingdom while his father tried to reopen trade routes taken over by Cyrus and the Persians. Belshazzar was in charge of the city of Babylon when it was captured.

Daniel 5:2 KJV

2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Daniel 5:2 AMPC

2 Belshazzar, while he was tasting the wine, commanded that the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple [out of the sacred area—the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies] which was in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them.

Nebuchadnezzar is called Belshazzar's "***father***": because in ancient Semitic languages and Near Eastern royal protocol, the term for "father" was used loosely to mean grandfather, ancestor, or predecessor on the throne, rather than strictly a direct biological parent.

Daniel 5:3 KJV

3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

Daniel 5:3 AMPC

3 Then they brought in the gold and silver vessels which had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.

Concubines (laahinu in Aramaic): refer to women of secondary status in King Belshazzar's court, who were partners or mistresses attending the banquet. They were considered lower in rank than wives, though they were often used to ensure heirs.

Daniel 5:4 KJV

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Daniel 5:4 AMPC

4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Note: They were driving alcohol and became foolish. They were using the vessels stolen from God's Temple, what belonged to God, to worship, enjoy or pay homage to the "things" their own hands or thoughts had done. Blessing themselves with what God had provided.

Proverbs 20:1 AMPC

20 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a riotous brawler; and whoever errs or reels because of it is not wise.

Proverbs 23:31-35 AMPC

31 Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the wineglass, when it goes down smoothly.

32 At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.

33 [Under the influence of wine] your eyes will behold strange things [and loose women] and your mind will utter things turned the wrong way [untrue, incorrect, and petulant].

34 Yes, you will be [as unsteady] as he who lies down in the midst of the sea, and [as open to disaster] as he who lies upon the top of a mast.

35 You will say, *They struck me, but I was not hurt! They beat me [as with a hammer], but I did not feel it! When shall I awake? I will crave and seek more wine again [and escape reality].*

Proverbs 31:4-7 AMPC

4 **It is not for kings**, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to desire strong drink,

5 Lest they drink **and forget the law and what it decrees, and pervert the justice due any of the afflicted.**

Isaiah 28:7 AMPC

7 But even these reel from wine and stagger from strong drink: **the priest and the prophet reel from strong drink; they are confused from wine, they stagger and are gone astray through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble when pronouncing judgment.**

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel's] **watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.**

11 **Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].**

12 Come, **say they, We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink!** And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.

Hebrews 13:8 KJV

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Malachi 3:6 KJV

6 For I am the Lord, I change not;

Daniel 5:5 KJV

5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:5 AMPC

5 Immediately and suddenly there appeared the fingers of a man's hand and wrote on the plaster of the wall opposite the candlestick [so exposed especially to the light] in the king's palace, and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:6 KJV

6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

Daniel 5:6 AMPC

6 Then the color and the [drunken] hilarious brightness of the king's face was changed, and his [terrifying] thoughts troubled and alarmed him; the joints and muscles of his hips and back gave way and his knees smote together.

Daniel 5:7 KJV

7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:7 AMPC

7 The king cried aloud [mightily] to bring in the enchanters or soothsayers, the Chaldeans [diviners], and the astrologers. The king said to the wise men of Babylon, Whoever will read this writing and show me the interpretation of it will be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold put about his neck and will be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Nabonidus was king, his son Belshazzar, second in command also called King representing his father's throne. The person who could read the writing would be given third place which is the highest position and honor that Belshazzar could offer.

Daniel 5:8 KJV

8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 5:8 AMPC

8 And all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation of it.

Although the writing on the wall contained only three simple words in Aramaic, a language understood by Babylonians (see 2:4), the people could not determine its prophetic significance. God gave Daniel alone the ability to interpret the message of doom to Babylon. No matter how great the reward offered, the wise men of the kingdom couldn't interpret the message because they lacked God's wisdom. Daniel did not rush into the banquet hall with the others. His loyalty was to God, not money.

Jeremiah 33:3 AMPC

3 Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know (do not distinguish and recognize, have knowledge of and understand).

Daniel 5:9 KJV

9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

Daniel 5:9 AMPC

9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly perplexed and alarmed and the color faded from his face, and his lords were puzzled and astounded.

Daniel 5:10 KJV

10 Now the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

Daniel 5:10 AMPC

10 Now the queen [mother], overhearing the exciting words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house. The queen [mother] said, O king, live forever! Do not be alarmed at your thoughts or let your cheerful expression and the color of your face be changed.

This queen was either Nabonidus's wife or the wife of one of his predecessors, possibly even of Nebuchadnezzar. She was not Belshazzar's wife, because his wives were with him in the banquet hall.

Daniel 5:11 KJV

11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

Daniel 5:11 AMPC

11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the holy God [or gods], and in the days of your father light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—the king, I say, your father—appointed him master of the magicians, enchanters or soothsayers, Chaldeans, and astrologers,

Daniel 5:12 KJV

12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 5:12 AMPC

*12 **Because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, clarify riddles, and solve knotty problems were found in this same Daniel,** whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.*

Proverbs 18:16 AMPC

16 A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.

Daniel 5:13 KJV

*13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of **Jewry?***

Daniel 5:13 AMPC

*13 Then Daniel was brought in before the king. And the king said to Daniel, Are you that Daniel of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of **Judah?***

Daniel 5:14 KJV

14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

Daniel 5:14 AMPC

14 I have heard of you, that the Spirit of the holy God [or gods] is in you and that light and understanding and superior wisdom are found in you.

Note: _____

Luke 16:10-15 AMPC

10 He who is faithful in a very little [thing] is faithful also in much, and he who is dishonest and unjust in a very little [thing] is dishonest and unjust also in much.

11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the [case of] unrighteous mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions), who will entrust to you the true riches?

12 And if you have not proved faithful in that which belongs to another [whether God or man], who will give you that which is your own [that is, the true riches]?

13 No servant is able to serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (riches, or anything in which you trust and on which you rely).

Daniel 5:15 KJV

15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:

Daniel 5:15 AMPC

*15 Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me that they might read this writing and make known to me the interpretation of it, **but they could not show the interpretation of the matter.***

Daniel 5:16 KJV

16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:16 AMPC

*16 **But I have heard of you, that you can make interpretations and solve knotty problems.** Now **if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold put around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.***

Daniel 5:17 KJV

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

Daniel 5:17 AMPC

*17 Then Daniel answered before the king, **Let your gifts be for yourself and give your rewards to another.** However, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.*

The king offered Daniel beautiful gifts and great power if he would explain the writing, but Daniel turned him down, you can't buy or pay Daniel to get a different answer. Daniel was not motivated by material rewards. His entire life had been characterized by doing what was right in God's eyes and God provided for Daniel.

He was not showing disrespect in refusing the gifts, but he was growing older and knew the gifts would do him little good. Besides, being the third-highest ruler in a kingdom Daniel knew was about to be destroyed was not exactly motivating! Daniel wanted to show that he was giving an unbiased interpretation, doing what God said to say with or without reward.

1 Kings 22:1-9 AMPC

1 Syria and Israel continued without war for three years.

2 In the third year Jehoshaphat king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

3 *And [Ahab] king of Israel said to his servants, Do you know that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we keep silence and do not take it from the king of Syria?*

4 *And [Ahab] said to Jehoshaphat, Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead to battle? Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.*

5 *But Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, Inquire first, I pray you, for the word of the Lord today.*

6 *Then [Ahab] king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about 400 men, and said to them, Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I hold back? And they said, Go up, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king.*

7 *Jehoshaphat said, Is there not another prophet of the Lord here whom we may ask?*

8 *[Ahab] king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord, but I hate him, for he never prophesies good for me, but evil. Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say that.*

9 *Then [Ahab] king of Israel told an officer, Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imlah.*

The story of the Prophet Balaam and the Donkey (Numbers 22-24)
While traveling to meet King Balak of Moab to curse the Israelites for money, Balaam's donkey was stopped by an angel holding a sword. When the donkey stopped, Balaam beat it, at which point God allowed the donkey to speak and rebuke Balaam for the beatings.
Balaam was a "prophet for hire" often associated with greed and loving the "wages of unrighteousness" (2 Peter 2:15). Although he was hired to curse Israel, God forced him to bless them instead. However, he later instructed King Balak on how to get the Israelites to sin, leading to many deaths.

Daniel 5:18 KJV

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:

Daniel 5:18 AMPC

18 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and greatness and glory and majesty;

Daniel 5:19 KJV

19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

Daniel 5:19 AMPC

19 And because of the greatness that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would he slew, and whom he would he kept alive; whom he would he set up, and whom he would he put down.

Daniel 5:20 KJV

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

Daniel 5:20 AMPC

20 But when his heart was lifted up and his mind and spirit were hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne and his glory was taken from him;

Daniel 5:21 KJV

21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

Daniel 5:21 AMPC

*21 He was driven from among men, and **his heart or mind was made like the beasts**, and his dwelling was with the wild asses. He was fed with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of the heavens until he learned and knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and that He appoints and sets over it whomever He will.*

Daniel 5:22 KJV

22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

Daniel 5:22 AMPC

22 And you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart and mind, though you knew all this [knew it and were defiant].

Often kings would kill the bearers of bad news. But Daniel was unafraid and told the truth. He had been faithful (habitually obedient) in living and telling the truth since his youth. In this case, he knew Babylon would be overrun and Belshazzar would be killed.

Daniel still used this opportunity to reveal the sin of Belshazzar and his companions, pointing them to God and urging them to humble themselves before him. Unlike Nebuchadnezzar, however, Belshazzar did not humble himself. We should tell the truth, even when we face pressure to please others or conform.

Like Daniel, we should be bold when we are in a position to speak against those who defy God's authority and lovingly point them to the saving grace of Jesus, even when it seems they will not listen.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 AMPC

*1 I charge [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, **Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by (in the light of) His coming and His kingdom:***

*2 Herald and preach the Word! **Keep your sense of urgency** [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] **And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching.***

*3 **For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction,** but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold,*

4 And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.

5 As for you, be calm and cool and steady, accept and suffer unflinchingly every hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fully perform all the duties of your ministry.

2 Peter 1:12-21 AMPC

12 So I intend always to remind you about these things, although indeed you know them and are firm in the truth that [you] now [hold].

13 I think it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle (tent, body), to stir you up by way of remembrance,

14 Since I know that the laying aside of this body of mine will come speedily, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

15 Moreover, I will diligently endeavor [to see to it] that [even] after my departure (decease) you may be able at all times to call these things to mind.

16 For we were not following cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty (grandeur, authority of sovereign power).

17 For when He was invested with honor and glory from God the Father and a voice was borne to Him by the [splendid] Majestic Glory [in the bright cloud that overshadowed Him, saying], This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased and delight,

18 We [actually] heard this voice borne out of heaven, for we were together with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And we have the prophetic word [made] firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dismal (squalid and dark) place, until the day breaks through [the gloom] and the Morning Star rises (comes into being) in your hearts.

20 [Yet] first [you must] understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of any personal or private or special interpretation (loosening, solving).

21 For no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it [to do so—it never came by human impulse], but men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 1:1, 3 AMPC

1 [This is] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass in their entirety. And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,

3 Blessed (happy, to be envied) is the man who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, to be envied) are those who hear [it read] and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it [heeding them and laying them to heart], for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.

Note: _____

Daniel 5:23 KJV

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

Daniel 5:23 AMPC

23 And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven, and the vessels of His house have been brought before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know; but the God in Whose hand your breath is and Whose are all your ways you have not honored and glorified [but have dishonored and disgraced].

As king, Belshazzar would have known Babylonian history, so he was familiar with the story of how God had humbled Nebuchadnezzar. But, Belshazzar's banquet was a rebellious challenge to God's authority. He took the gold cups from God's Temple and drank from them (5:2-4).

Daniel 5:24 KJV

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

Daniel 5:24 AMPC

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from the presence of [the Most High God], and this writing was inscribed.

Belshazzar was using the gold cups from the Temple for his party, and God condemned him for this act. We must not use for sinful purposes what has been dedicated to God. What has God given you and how are you using it? _____

Daniel 5:25 KJV

25 And this is the writing that was written, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.

Daniel 5:25 AMPC

25 And this is the inscription that was written, mene, mene, tekel, upharsin—numbered, numbered, weighed, divisions.

Daniel 5:26 KJV

*26 This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; **God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.***

Daniel 5:26 AMPC

*26 This is the interpretation of the matter: mene, **God has numbered the days of your kingship and brought them to an end;***

Daniel 5:27 KJV

27 Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Daniel 5:27 AMPC

27 tekem, You are weighed in the balances and are found wanting;

The writing on the wall was a message for all those who defy God. Although Belshazzar had power and wealth, his kingdom was totally corrupt, and he could not withstand the judgment of God. God's time of judgment comes for all people. If you have forgotten God and slipped into a sinful way of life, turn away from your sin now before he removes the opportunity to repent. Ask God to forgive you, and begin to live by his standards.

Daniel 5:28 KJV

28 Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 5:28 AMPC

28 peres, Your kingdom and your kingship are divided and given to the Medes and Persians. (Foretold in Isa. 21)

Upharsin means: “and divided” or “divided in half”. Daniel chapter 5 uses the singular form of upharsin which is peres (or parsin). First to the Medes and then the Persians.

The Medes and Persians joined forces to overthrow Babylon. This event was predicted in the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had in Daniel 2. It was represented in the statue's silver chest and arms.

Daniel 5:29 KJV

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:29 AMPC

*29 Then Belshazzar commanded, and Daniel was clothed with purple and a chain of gold put about his neck, **and a proclamation was made concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.***

Daniel 5:30 KJV

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

Daniel 5:30 AMPC

30 During that night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was slain,

God's judgement, after showing the King(s) in Babylon that He was the God of God, the Lord of Lord's and the King of King's came swiftly after giving the King time to repent just as He did King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:33 AMPC

33 That very hour the thing was [in process of] being fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and did eat grass like oxen [as Daniel had said he would], and his body was wet with the dew of the heavens until his hair grew like eagles' [feathers] and his nails [were] like birds' [claws].

Daniel 5:31 KJV

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

Daniel 5:31 AMPC

31 And Darius the Mede took the kingdom; he was about sixty-two years old.

Darius and his soldiers entered Babylon by diverting the river that ran through the city and then walking in on the dry riverbed. This Darius is different then: Darius I, (Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah, or Darius II (the Persian), mentioned in Nehemiah. Darius the Mede is named only in the book of Daniel.



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